

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes new Figs. 7-9 to illustrate subject matter that was described in the original specification and was claimed in some of the original claims, but was not specifically shown in the original drawings.

RemarksThe New Drawing Sheet

Attached hereto is an annotated new drawing sheet responsive to the Examiner's objections to the drawings. This new sheet adds Figures 7-9 to illustrate the rear quick attachment, the blower, the trailing rake and the box scraper.

If this annotated drawing sheet is approved by the Examiner, a replacement sheet for this annotated sheet will be supplied when the formal drawings for this application are transmitted to the PTO.

The Amendments to the Specification

New replacement paragraphs 11 and 33 have been submitted to correct misspellings in the original paragraphs 11 and 33. The remaining changes in the specification are mainly due to the addition of the new drawing figures referred to above and the need to refer to such figures and to what is illustrated therein, i.e. to add a Brief Description of each new figure and to use reference numerals to point to the newly illustrated blower, trailing rake and box scraper. All such subject matter shown in the new figures and the changes to the specification do not involve new matter, but only specifically illustrate subject matter set forth in the original application.

Amended Claim 1

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions on page 7 of the Office Action in the Examiner's rejection of claim 6, the ac-

tuator 37 of Smith is NOT carried on the front wheel support 14. Smith's actuator 37 is instead carried on the frame 10 of the tractor. By contrast, the Applicant's hydraulic cylinder 34 is mounted on and carried by the front wheel support to pivot with the front wheel support during steering of the vehicle.

Even if it were obvious to replace the manual actuator 37 in Smith with a hydraulic actuator or some other powered actuator, this still does not meet the required placement of the actuator as now set forth in amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom should be allowed.

Amended Claim 12

Smith's blade 32 is for the purpose of **breaking out ridges of dirt or lifting vines from the ground**. See Col. 1 of Smith, Line 29. As such, Smith's blade 32 is rigidly attached to the four bar linkage with the four bar linkage merely permitting the blade 32 to be manually raised and lowered out of engagement with the ground. When Smith's blade 32 is down and is operating, it must remain rigid to perform its intended purpose.

Thus, to cause Smith's blade 32 to pivot against the bias of a spring would destroy its purpose. A blade 32 that can pivot when it encounters a ridge or tries to lift a vine would simply not work. Accordingly, the Examiner's suggestion that it would be obvious to use such a connection and a spring as taught by Curtis is in error. A combination that destroys the intended purpose of the primary reference can hardly be said to be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. In fact, it is something one of ordinary skill in the art would make every effort to avoid.

Moreover, Curtis teaches a spring bias only for absorbing shocks if the blade were to hit a solid obstruction. See Col.

4 of Curtis, Lines 2-6. Curtis does not teach that the blade should pivot during operation simply because the blade is becoming more loaded with whatever it is pushing.

Claim 12 as amended recites:

"(d) at least one spring operatively connected between the blade and the attachment with the spring being arranged such that pivoting of the blade is opposed by the bias of the at least one spring when the blade pivots in one direction during forward movement of the frame, wherein the blade has a top and a bottom and the the bottom of the blade swings rearwardly when the blade pivots in the one direction; and

(e) wherein the bias of the at least one spring is chosen to allow the blade to pivot against the bias of the at least one spring when the bottom of the blade becomes loaded with the granular material being pushed by the blade to thereby cause the blade to automatically become more inclined relative to the granular material to lessen the grading effectiveness of the blade without changing the vertical position of the blade."

While Curtis discloses a spring, one of ordinary skill in the art would not add such a spring to Smith's blade 32, which must remain rigid during operation to break out ridges or lift vines. Moreover, Curtis does not teach or suggest a particular spring bias of the type set forth in limitation (e). Accordingly, claim 12 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable.

Amended Claim 20

The use of an A-shaped quick attachment system carried on a pivoting front wheel support is not shown or suggested in the art. Even if one were to attempt to mount an A-shaped quick attachment system to Smith's linkages 25 and 29, this does not teach the kind of mounting now set forth

in amended claim 20, namely one where the male coupler is connected by bars to the legs of a front wheel support that straddles the front wheel. In Smith, the front wheel support is a post or stem 14 that fits between the wheels of a double wheel truck and is not suited for carrying an A-shaped quick attachment on the ends of the linkages 25 and 29. Accordingly, claim 20 as amended and its dependent claims are allowable.

Amended Claim 24

This invention relates to the use of the same kind and size of quick attachment system on both the front and the rear of the vehicle. In an appropriate case, this allows the same implement, such as the blower, to be used either on the front or the rear of the vehicle. Claim 24 has been amended to reflect this fact by requiring that "the first and second quick attachments are of like kind and size". This is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

Accordingly, claims 24-26 are allowable.

Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and sent to issue for the reasons noted above.

Respectfully presented,



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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

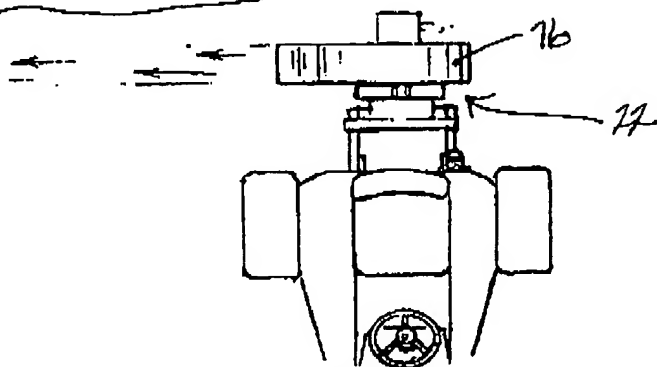


FIG. 7

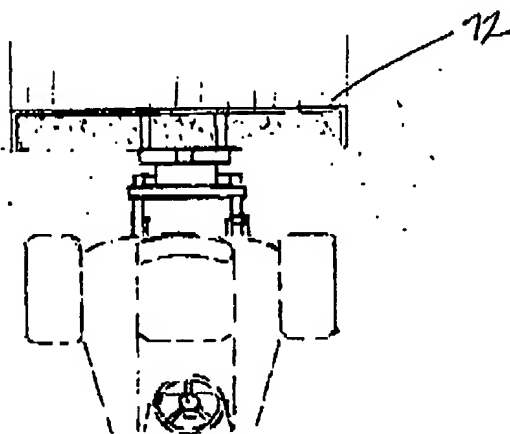


FIG. 8

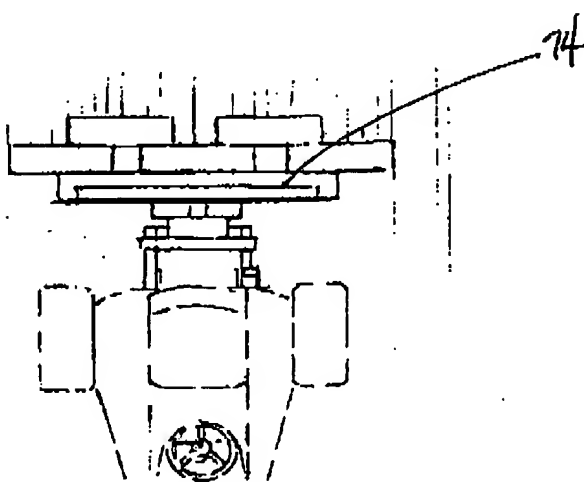


FIG. 9

new
Figs. 7-9
added

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